

The Reminder

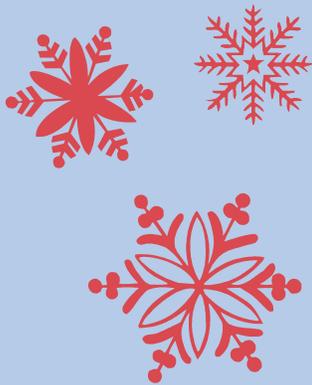
January 2007

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan



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Membership Awards

At the meeting on December 1, 2006, prestigious Club awards were presented to three well-deserving members. Outstanding Service Awards, which recognize long-standing and meritorious service to the Club, were presented to Bill Reilly and Dr. Jaap Delevie.

Bill has served on and chaired a broad array of Club committees over the years, including Health and Visitation, Membership, Games, Table-Setting, Policy and on *The Reminder* staff. For many years, he was "Mr. Golden Oldie," with his humorous presentations of this prestigious award. In recent years, Japp has devoted considerable time, energy and empathy to the critically important task of chairing the Health and Visitation Committee. Prior roles included the Applicant Activity and Applicant Committees, as well as being a regular and well-received speaker/contributor at Discussion and Camera Group meetings.



Bill Reilly, Japp Delevie



Frank Barnes and Al Eicher

President Frank Barnes presented the President's Award to Al Eicher. This award acknowledges a significant contribution to the Club by the honored member. Al conceived and produced the highly successful SMC documentary video - a key component of our 50th anniversary celebration. Congratulations to these winners!

-Dick Harper

JANUARY PROGRAMS

JANUARY CHAIRMAN: Don Overy

- 5 Monica Duncan, Executive Director, South Oakland Shelter..... "Homelessness in Our Community"
- 12 Dana Johnson, Chief Economist for Comerica, Inc. "Ending Michigan's Own State Recession"
- 19 Dr. David P. Wood, Jr., Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Michigan
..... "Treatment of Prostate Cancer-DaVinci Robotic Systems"
- 26 Rick Reed, Professional Major League Baseball Umpire..... "Major League Umpiring Today"

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY CHAIRMAN: Phil Werner

- 2 Dr. Susan Hahn, Beaumont Eye Institute..... "Help for Macular Degeneration"

JANUARY DISCUSSIONS

JANUARY CHAIRMAN: Jack McCuen

- 5 Tom Venier, SMC Applicant, Organization of Bat Conservation "Flying Bats of the World"
- 12 Joe Bunting, Birmingham Policeman "Reflections of a Cop on the Beat in Birmingham"
- 19 Elena Sukacheva, former talk show host on Russian TV "Russia-Authoritarian State or Democracy?"
- 26 Roger Strelow, Chairman of Interfaith Partners in Detroit.....
..... "Can Detroit's Muslims, Jews, and Christians Set an Example of Interfaith Harmony?"

FEBRUARY DISCUSSIONS

FEBRUARY CHAIRMAN: Augie Perrotta

- 2 Bradshaw Mallard, P.A., Former Administrative Manager, Henry Ford Hospital.....
..... "Preventing Memory Loss-An Eclectic Approach"

Membership News

New Applicants:

Richard R. Gala, (Callie)

2909 Bamlet Road, Royal Oak, MI 48073-2978
248-549-5238; E-mail: RRGala@med.wayne.edu
Sponsor: John Horiszny

Emmanuel S. Najor, (Nouhad)

54 Hillsdale Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302-0633
248-334-6315; E-mail: EmmanuelNajor@sbcglobal.net
Sponsor: Charles C. Kass

Dennis S. Nielsen, (Sandra)

796 Springfield Drive, Northville, MI 48167-1032
248-349-4497; E-mail: AerDsn@ameritech.net
Sponsor: John S. Flintosh

Donald A. Nummer, (Julie)

858 Dowling Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2521
248-647-2891; E-mail: NummerDo@sbcglobal.net
Sponsor: Roger Spry

Dropped:

Douglas F. Allison

Clive E. Catchpole

Resigned:

Applicant Kenneth C. Wysocki

Deaths:

Life Member Peter C. Zemnickas, joined January 1989

Member Vincent J. Caputo, joined January 1989

Life Member Darrell T. Mould, joined October 1984

-Pete Kass, Membership Chairman

-Bill Peschel, Membership Vice Chairman

Guys & Gals Bocce Ball Party--Elegant Fun Event for April

Throwing and rolling balls toward a target is probably the oldest game known to mankind. It is widely believed that the ancient Egyptians were the first to play this sport as far back as 5200 BC. The game then spread to Greece around 800 BC, then on to Italy. Consider the possibility that Cleopatra might have challenged her lover Mark Anthony to a game of bocce ball—a game played by many notables down through the ages, including George Washington, as a “sport known to revive both body and mind.”

Today in America, bocce ball is rapidly growing in popularity with guys and gals of all ages. We here in Oakland County are most fortunate, as the recently built Palazzo di Bocci—“America’s first Palace of Bocce,” located just 1.4 miles north of the Palace of Auburn Hills on Lapeer Road—is an easy drive from Birmingham.

The Special Events Committee has reserved the east wing of this elegant new sports facility for our upcoming “Guys & Gals Bocce Ball Party” on Thursday, April 11. Teams will be established ahead of time so that play will begin that morning. We will break for a delicious buffet lunch, then wrap up our Bocce Ball Party that afternoon.

The per person ticket price will be moderate and the fun you will experience will be most memorable.

So, mark the date in your April calendar. Over the weeks ahead, please familiarize yourself with the marvelous Palazzo di Bocci facility and this fun game. Watch for further details from the committee!

-Tom Clapp, Jack Howell, Riggs Miller and Art Pope

Dues Reminder

To those members and applicants of the Senior Men’s Club who have not paid their dues as required, you have until the end of February to pay them. Amount of dues is as follows: Active \$35; Associate \$15; Member on Leave \$15; Applicant \$20.

Please mail in or present your dues at the next January meeting. All unpaid member’s and applicant’s names after February will be presented to the Executive Board. Checks may be made payable to SMCB and may be paid at the regular meetings or mailed to: The Community House, 380 S. Bates Street, Birmingham, MI 48009, Attention: Senior Men’s Club Dues.

-Warren Spatz, Finance Committee

Groups



Investment Group

The January Investment Group meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2007 at 2:45 p.m. Bill Halbert, Smith Barney (formerly with UBS) will be our speaker for the 21st year.

Bill will provide an enthusiastic review of the "Economic & Stock Market outlook for 2007." Surveys show that Bill is our most popular speaker. Be there to hear his forecasts!

-George Miller



Camera Group

Sail on the square-rigged barque Sea Cloud, with 34,000 square feet of canvas in its 30 sails, through the Mediterranean with SMC member Ed Proctor. Originally the personal private yacht of Marjorie Merriweather Post, this magnificent ship will take you from Kusadasi and Ephesus along the turquoise coast of southwestern Turkey to Bodrum, Antalya, Termessus and Perge. Then to the islands of Rhodes, Santorini, Crete, Malta, Sicily and the Isle of Capri, ending at Civitavecchia, Italy, the port city of Rome. Come join us on Tuesday, January 9, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. to take a visual tour.

-Roger Garvelink



Computer Group

Getting lost, whether on foot or in your car, is no fun. It can be downright dangerous. OnStar is a good solution if your car is equipped with it. But, maybe a better solution would be to get a fully portable GPS instrument. You could use it in your car and your boat and even if you just want to go for a walk. Our Computer Group meeting this month will feature Jack Vanders discussing and demonstrating Global Positioning Systems instruments. They can do a lot more than just let you know where you are and where you are going. Come to the meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17 and find out what a GPS can do for you.

-George Nordenholt

Games



Bowling Report

With two weeks to go in the first half, the team that is leading with 60 points is the Hoosiers (Garland, Smiley, Doty and Dimarco). Other important stats are: High Average: P. Buccini, 169; High Game: P. Buccini, 235; High Series: Lee Lessenthien, 608; High team game: Illini, 704 (Minard, Miller, Moore and Schrift). We will continue bowling after January 1.

-Dennis Kozak

Winter Golf

January 11 is the day for all golfers to shake the holiday and winter blues and get those muscles ready to compete on April 5. Winter golf at the Oakland Dome starts on that date and continues every other Thursday until March 22. It's the greatest \$8 bargain in southeast Michigan as it includes coffee and soft drinks.

Directions to the Oakland Yard Dome: Go North on Woodward to Square Lake. West on Square Lake to Telegraph. North on Telegraph to M-59. West on M-59 to the dome. As you pass Crescent Lake Road, you will shortly see the dome over your passenger side front fender. You will pass a small bridge over the Clinton River. On your right you will see a large "Subway" sign. The Oakland Yard entrance is just beyond that "Subway" sign. Hit them high, hit them straight, and punch a hole in the far end of the Dome.

-Chuck Travers

February Roses

Each lady will receive a rose when the SMC takes a trip to The Purple Rose Theatre to see the matinee production of *The Subject Was Roses*. An elaborate buffet brunch at the Chelsea Grille will precede the play. You will want to attend this romantic Valentine outing on Sunday, February 11, 2007.

We will board the bus at 10:00 a.m. in the BASCC parking lot, 2121 Midvale, with departure promptly at 10:30 a.m. Projected arrival time in Chelsea for brunch is 12:00 p.m.

This is the final notice for ticket sales: January 19, 26 and February 2. The cost is \$52 per person.

-Don Upward, Roy Halmhuber, John Horiszny

The Essence of SMC

How many of you can describe in one breath what the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham is all about?

Well, your 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, in struggling with a number of tasks, discovered that in seeking notable program speakers we had to come up with what amounts to a sound bite to answer the question: WHAT IS THE SENIOR MEN'S CLUB?

Numerous versions were crafted under the creative eye of chairman Dick Harper, with each being challenged for brevity, accuracy, and appropriateness.

Finally Tom Clapp put it this way, "You have to say it in one breath." Someone else added that executive secretaries show you no mercy if you can't. So at a breakfast with Alvie Smith, Chip Forbes and me, Clapp tossed Alvie the challenge to boil it down, and to make it sing.

The result you will find on the jacket of the 50th Anniversary DVD. If you haven't gotten yours yet, here is what it says:

We are a Club of 750 retired men who over 50 years proved that we can extend the enjoyment of life and service to our community by cooperating in programs that nurture friendships, stimulate the mind and challenge us to stay abreast of changing times.

Alvie's distinguished contribution is the notion that SMC activity extends the enjoyment of life and service to our community.

-John Reddy



SMC Documentary Video

Sales of the special documentary video celebrating our 50th anniversary have gotten off to a rousing start. This video was developed by member Al Eicher and features a number of SMC member spokesmen.

Bolstered by enthusiastic member comments and reactions, we sold 102 copies of this video, available in DVD and VHS formats, through early December. This is a real collector's item and could make a great Christmas gift. The video was shown at our Christmas party, and will be on community television starting in January.

-Dick Harper

It is Better to Give Than Receive



Taking the above statement to heart, the Senior Men honored the beautiful ladies, who serve the members throughout the year at the Friday luncheons, with the annual Christmas Luncheon held at the last meeting in 2006.

At 10:55 a.m., with Bob Seeley at the piano playing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and other lively tunes, Santa Claus (Roy Halmhuber) with Elaine Dobson led the hostesses into the Wallace Ballroom to be greeted by first Vice President Bill Johnson.

After Community House Vice President Jan Bird accepted the yearly gift for The Community House employees' party, hostess Kate Hameister and hostess

Jeanne Swanson were awarded silver monogrammed lockets to recognize their 15 years of service.

With the aid of second Vice President Kenneth Urwiller, Bill Johnson gave each of the ladies a gift of appreciation for all they have done for the Senior Men's Club, followed immediately by the recognition of Elaine Dobson for her 50 years of hostess service. President Frank M. Barnes confirmed Elaine as our second honorary member, and Vice President Bill Johnson awarded Elaine a diamond pendant. Elaine gave a marvelous acceptance speech.

The entertainment was provided by the "Ambassadors," a 10 person chorus led by Gladys Ferguson accompanied by an auto harp.

The excellent Friday lunch was served by Roy Halmhuber and his SMC waiters, bringing this great day to a close.

-Bill Reilly



It Was a Good Year

"Good Morning Men," the opening salutation of the Friday meetings will soon be a fine memory as the presidency of Frank M. Barnes draws to a close December 31, 2006.

All Friday meetings were well organized, efficiently run and enjoyable to attend during his term of office. This is attributed to Frank's attention to detail. The culmination of this wonderful year of leadership will be signified by Frank receiving his green card symbolizing a past president. Hopefully this will not lead to retirement but stimulate Frank to seek an active role in our many activities. His leadership abilities will always be needed.

Thank you Frank for the past year and, once again, the great talent that exists in the Men's Club was on display.

-Bill Reilly



People Who Know What They Are Talking About

Augie Perrotta will be the Discussion Group chairman for 2007. He and his committee have already scheduled some top speakers from both within and outside the club who will discuss things about which many people are curious. Plan to stay after lunch for an extra hour each Friday, beginning at 12:45 p.m., to hear the presenters and subjects listed on the front cover of *The Reminder*.

At the first meeting, we will not only hear about bats, but we will see a live, six foot wingspan bat as well as other live bats. The presentation will be given by the "Batman of Cranbrook." At the second meeting, we will hear from a local policeman who will tell us what it's like being a cop and will give tips on security. For the third meeting, a native Russian from Moscow, who moved to the USA in 1998 and received Master's Degrees from Wayne State University and the University of Chicago, will tell us about Russia. She is a world traveler and is currently an Engagement Manager for McKinsey & Co in Chicago. The fourth meeting will be presented by the chairman of a group of lay and clergy leaders from Christian, Muslim and Jewish faiths in Detroit. His day job is Director of Global Environment and Safety and Associate General Counsel for Federal-Mogul Corp.

All SMC members, applicants, and guests are invited to attend the Discussion Group meetings. You will have the opportunity to join in or simply listen to conversations that provide interesting and thought provoking information.

-Irv Poston

Last Call for the Bus Trip to the North American International Auto Show

Hope you are already one of the lucky ones that have purchased a ticket for the bus trip to the 2007 Auto Show on Thursday, January 18, 2007. If there are any tickets remaining, we will be selling them Fridays, January 5 and January 12.

There is a limit of two tickets per person. Members, applicants, spouses or significant others are invited.

Price is only \$13 per person and includes bus transportation with door-to-door service, driver gratuity and donation to the church for use of the parking lot. It does not include admission to the show. (The price for senior admission to the show is \$6.00.) Perhaps, as in the past years, many of you have a source for complimentary admission tickets.

Join us and forget your driving, coat-check and parking worries with door-to-door service.

We meet at the rear of the First Presbyterian Church parking lot. The bus will leave at 9:45 a.m. PROMPTLY and return approximately 4:00 p.m.

-Mike Clement, Riggs Miller and Roger Struck

SMC On TCH Website

The Community House has greatly simplified access to Senior Men's Club information and to the "Wars of Our Generation" book on its website.

First, enter www.communityhouse.com (home page), then click Select-a-link, then click Senior Men's Club. To view the book, click the title at the bottom of the page.

(Thanks to Debbie Schrot of TCH for this simplification).

-Dick Harper

Mystery Lyrics

Nearly 20 of our readers correctly identified that these lines

"When we finally kiss goodnight

How I hate going out in the storm"

are from the seasonal song "Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow". A number of you noted that this one was too easy.

Bill Sprague and Jack McLaughlin were the first to respond after e-mail distribution. After regular mailing, we first heard from Jack Howell, Dale Parker, Nancy Frye (wife of Russ), Bob Klein, Dick Porter and Chuck Himelhoch.

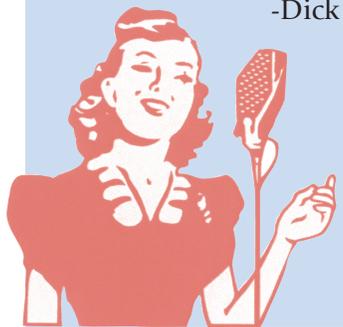
OK, so you want a more difficult challenge. How about these lyrics?

"Folks around these parts

Get the time of day"

Can you name that tune? (No hint—you are on your own, and note, no "Googling.")

-Dick Harper



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Senior Men's Club of Birmingham
380 S. Bates St. Birmingham, MI 48009



Address Service Requested

CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2007, 9:30 AM

Reminder Deadline: Friday, January 19, 2007

Games

Bowling: Monday, 8:45 AM at Thunderbird Lanes

Bridge: Tuesday, 9:00 AM and Friday after lunch

Golf: Every other Thursday, Oakland Yard Dome, 9:30 AM

Special Events

Detroit Auto Show: January 18, 2007 at Cobo Hall

"The Subject Was Roses": February 11, 2007 at the Purple Rose Theatre

Group Meetings

Camera: Tuesday, January 9, 2007, 2:00 PM

Computer: Wednesday, January 17, 2007, 3:00 PM

Investment Study: Wednesday, January 10, 2007, 2:45 PM

All events at The Community House unless otherwise stated.

THE REMINDER

A monthly publication of the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, which meets on Fridays at 10:30 AM at The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, Michigan 48009.

Officers for 2007 are: Bill Johnson, president; Ken Urwiller, first vice president; Bob Pullar, second vice president; Irv Poston, recording secretary; John Flintosh, corresponding secretary; Bill Sprague, treasurer; Bill Minard, assistant treasurer; Bill English and Tom Clapp, officers at large; Bill Crabtree, parliamentarian.

THE REMINDER includes: Chuck Kirkpatrick, editor; Dick Harper, Paul Pentecost, Bill Reilly, Dick Davis, associate editors; John Dudash and Bill Shaffmaster photography; Lee Trumbull, computer layout; Bob Jordan, mailing.